



North Central Region
Civil Air Patrol

North Central Region News

Volume 2006 **September**

North Dakota Wing Fields Massive Search

Minnesota and South Dakota Wings Support Mission

North Dakota Wing conducted a demanding 15 day search for a single engine plane with one person on board. The plane disappeared shortly after takeoff from Bismarck August 24. The search was closed September 9 without finding Bob Nelson, 60, of Otter Tail Lake, MN, husband of Mollie Crawford, director of the Transportation Security Administration in Fargo.



The VFR rated pilot had taken off without a flight plan. Thunderstorms were building along his apparent flight path. The Piper Cherokee disappeared from radar near Edgeley, ND, south of Jamestown.

South Dakota and Minnesota Wings rallied to support North Dakota over the first weekend of the search, with a dozen aircraft from the three states combing the area from Bismarck east on the first Saturday of the search.

After the massive initial search, North Dakota Wing settled in for a grueling, protracted effort, following up leads and building Probability of Detection by re-searching areas.

"We have searched an area of over 15,000 square miles and have tracked down leads ranging from west of Bismarck to east of Fergus Fall, MN," said Col. Karl Altenberg, North Dakota Wing commander. "We have searched the area twice and, in some areas, many times more. Without further leads, we cannot improve on what we have done."

At least 120 members from the three states participated in the search, including air crews, ground teams and mission staff.



**See additional photos
on Page 6**

Commander Calls for “Officer” Terminology Change

The term “Senior Member” is confusing to people outside the organization and the organization should stop using it. That’s according to an August 24th letter from Gen. Antonio Pineda, CAP national commander.

“As I travel around the country I find that individuals who are unfamiliar with Civil Air Patrol have trouble understanding our structure and membership categories,” Pineda said. “Specifically the term ‘Senior Member’ often evokes the visible picture of aged or less than fully capable.”

Pineda’s letter said he has asked the CAP staff to recommend a new term, to be approved at the November NEC meeting. In the interim, he encouraged members to use the term “officer” instead of “senior member” in external presentations.

Vice Commander to Attend NCR Conference

Brigadier General Amy Courter, the newly elected first female National Vice Commander of the Civil Air Patrol, will attend the North Central Region Conference in October.

The conference is scheduled for October 27 & 28 at the Sheraton Four Points at Des Moines International Airport.

“I am asking that you inform the members of your Wing and encourage their attendance at the Region Conference,” said Col. Steve Kuddes, NCR commander. “We are encouraging the attendance of Cadets to the conference as they are an important part of our organization also. We will include activities for them.”

Also in attendance at the NCR Conference will be the National Safety Officer, Colonel Lyle Letteer, and a member of National Headquarters Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) staff.

The Region Conference will be one of the largest and most informative that the North Central Region has had in years, according to Kuddes. As we get closer to the conference, a schedule of meetings will be available. Registration fees and procedures are on the North Central Region website at: <http://ncr.cap.gov>



“Commander’s Call” by Col. Steve Kuddes

Years ago when the Cadet Protection Program (CPP) was started, it was an attempt to ensure that our Cadets were safe in the presence of our Officers. Numerous other youth organizations had experienced problems with child abusers and predators in their adult membership. The youth were not safe in their organization. The CAP goal was to perform criminal background checks

and training to provide a better and safer atmosphere for our Cadets.

Through the years we have trained our new Officers in our Cadet Protection Program Policies. Informing them of the “do’s and don’ts” when working with Cadets. We continually watch our Officers for signs of potential child abusers or predators that we failed to detect during our membership orientation and interviews. CPP is an ongoing living tool for making sure our Cadets enjoy their time in CAP and that they are free of worry or abuse.

Now a new potentially more dangerous threat has reared its ugly head.

Several weeks ago in one of our Wings, a Squadron was assisting at a public event. Members were posted at various locations of the event. A couple approached a Cadet, identified themselves as a CAP member and demanded the Cadet follow them to assist in finding a lost child. The Cadet returned back to their post but not before it was noted they were not there during a scheduled check. When questioned about their absence, the Cadet explained the request for helping to find a lost child. Using the description of the couple provided by the Cadet, CAP officers located the couple and asked why they had not utilized the event staff to help find the lost child. It was then discovered that another CAP member knew the couple and that they were not in fact CAP members. There are other details which make this incident more worrisome but for several reasons, we will not discuss them here.

Fortunately for us the couple were not child predators or we may have been searching for a missing Cadet also. This incident is startling enough to warrant some changes to our procedures in CPP and when working with the public. In the very near future, I will be issuing a Commanders Directive of additional training under CPP for our Officers and Cadets to help prevent future incidents like this and to better protect our Cadets. It will require that our entire CAP membership in the North Central Region participate in the additional training. We need to make changes to our operational procedures at public events to help eliminate the possibility that we could lose a Cadet to abduction.

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Civil Air Patrol's Role During 9/11

Editor's Note: This story appeared in the Brainard, MN, Dispatch on Sunday, Sept. 3, written by Minnesota Wing's Rich Sprouse.

The movie "World Trade Center" has received largely favorable reviews at theaters across the nation. Actors Nicholas Cage and Michael Pena portray two New York Port Authority Police Officers trapped in the collapse of the first World Trade Center tower. It's a powerful story on many levels, but likely one of few stories that will be dramatized on the big screen.

"World Trade Center" doesn't tell the whole story of Sept. 11. Nor could it. There were thousands of individuals and families affected. Also involved were untold numbers of emergency service providers, including one group whose history has bridged emergency services with homeland security for nearly 65 years, with little notice from Americans: the Civil Air Patrol.

It was a Civil Air Patrol plane that flew the first sortie over the collapsed Twin Towers performing photo reconnaissance of the site. CAP aircraft flew 48 sorties in the first 72 hours alone following the tragedy. Over 8,700 members were mobilized nationwide helping staff Federal Emergency Management Agency regional operations centers and state emergency operations centers, as well as support the lead federal agency in response and recovery.

CAP, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit, volunteer organization with nearly 57,000 members nationwide. This includes 1,200 members in Minnesota who can be called upon to assist government agencies on the national, state or local levels during emergency situations. Civil Air Patrol has the largest aircraft fleet in the country comprised of 4,000 member owned and 530 corporate owned single-engine aircraft.

Civil Air Patrol was born on December 1, 1941, just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor. CAP initially planned only on liaison flying and interdiction of infiltrators on the East Coast and the southern border, but CAP's mission grew when German submarines began to prey on American ships. During an 18-month span it reported 173 U-boats sighted and sunk two. Since air search and rescue had also been one of CAP's primary missions during the war, it was obvious there was no other organization with the equipment and training to continue this vital job in the post-war years.

With the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the Air Force made the decision to move CAP from its operations directorate to homeland security. Their conclusion was CAP is trained, equipped and prepared to support our national security efforts. CAP found itself once again flying the types of missions flown over 60 years ago during World War II with the exception of looking for submarines.

Civil Air Patrol is a story too few Americans are aware of, and likely won't be showcased in a film like "World Trade Center" or any sequels. But it's a powerful story nonetheless.

Safety "Down Day" Required in October

Each wing in North Central Region is required to select a Safety "Down Day" during October. The Down Day, announced recently by National Safety Officer COL Lyle Letteer, provides an opportunity to focus on safety in aviation, driving and bodily safety categories.

Emergency missions will preempt the safety day and allow its rescheduling, but units are otherwise directed to suspend operations for 24 hours in a focus on safety. A PowerPoint presentation distributed to Safety officers to support planning for the Down Day recommends safety programs including three aviation topics, three driving topics and three bodily safety topics.

According to Letteer, the Safety Down Day is an opportunity to pause for self-examination to focus on problems, learn how to manage risks and keep problems from happening.

Schultis Takes Command of Aberdeen Composite Squadron

Major J.D. Schultis has assumed command of Aberdeen Composite Squadron, Aberdeen, SD. Schultis succeeds his father, Capt. Dave Schultis who has commanded the unit for 15 years.

J.D. Schultis first joined CAP as a cadet in the now-deactivated Huron Composite Squadron. When the Schultis family moved to Aberdeen, J.D. contacted wing headquarters requesting help to reactivate a dormant CAP unit in Aberdeen. The Schultis family succeeded in achieving reactivation of Aberdeen Composite Squadron, which holds the lowest charter number of any active unit in South Dakota wing, 20.

The North Central Region News is published monthly by North Central Region, Civil Air Patrol, LtC Mike Marek, editor and NCR/PAO; Col. Steve Kuddes, Region Commander.

Please send submissions by the 10th of each month to:

pao@ncr.cap.gov

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“Offutt Cadet Earns Mitchell Award”



Cadet Second Lieutenant Brianna L. Tarpey, of the General Curtis E. LeMay Offutt Composite Squadron, recently earned and was awarded the Billy Mitchell Award.

Cadet Tarpey joined Civil Air Patrol in December 2002 as a member of the Okinawa Cadet Squadron, in Okinawa Japan. While there she attended her first encampment and was a member of the squadron Honor Guard. She has been a member of the Offutt Composite Squadron since 2005, and is serving as a Flight Commander. Cadet Second Lieutenant Tarpey has excelled in her leadership abilities within the squadron.

When asked what her next goal was she replied that she would like to make Cadet Captain, however her bigger goal is promote before her brother does. Her brother Thomas is currently a Cadet Second Lieutenant in the Offutt Composite Squadron.

NDWG Plans SLS/CLC

North Dakota Wing will hold concurrent Squadron Leadership School and Corporate Learning Course training on Sept 30 - Oct. 1.

The course will be held at the Bismark Comfort Inn.

The SLS is a requirement for completion of the Certificate of Proficiency. The CLC is a requirement for the Grover Loening Award.

For information on the courses, contact Capt Rebecca Sundhagen at 701.852.5150 or rebecca@sundhagen.com.

The Civil Air Patrol Chaplaincy

Ron Tottingham
Lt Col, CAP NCR/HC

The CAP Chaplaincy is currently facing its greatest challenges since its inception.

In our modern “war against terrorism” the military culture has found itself facing a two-fold problem in their chaplaincy which involves the CAP Chaplaincy also. One, they are facing a shortage of chaplain candidates, hence a shortage of chaplains to fill slots now vacated; and two they are facing a funding reallocation due to the war demands and war-like situations our military is currently involved in.

This has put increased demands on the CAP Chaplaincy because we are the only military Auxiliary Chaplaincy in the US, and we are now being looked at as the “Chaplaincy in readiness” to step up to this plate.

This has also put increased demands on the military commanders as they are now actively pursuing qualified CAP Chaplains to fill needed areas for their shortfall of chaplain presence. Some areas CAP Chaplains are now being asked to provide chaplain presence for are: military funerals for those killed in action, families in stress-coping situations while spouses or parents are deployed and chaplain presence for Guard and Reserve units. And beyond that are requests from the Department of Defense for qualified CAP Chaplains to perform military funerals for our many other dying veterans.

Such demand from the military has increased the training regimen within the CAP Chaplaincy of all eight Regions to bring the qualifications within Chaplain Corps up to the necessary level. It has also placed the Chief of CAP Chaplain service, the Deputy and the eight Region Chaplains in a position of increased necessary awareness of the chaplain qualifications and availability within their regions. It is also required that the records showing qualifications be available to be presented to any base commander requesting CAP Chaplain support on his base. Plus, the interconnecting with base commanders, from whom all military use of CAP Chaplains originate.

The 2006 National Board put on the Chaplain Service Advisory Council’s table several related issues such as the assignment of Chaplains in conjunction with their qualifications. A CAP Chaplain in this new military culture is no longer able to function without major handicaps unless up to demand level of training.

In the North Central Region we have long been at the “cutting edge” of training for our chaplain corps. And thanks, in much, goes to our succession of commanders who have vigorously supported their chaplain service - in training, position and usability. We are excited about that the military services see in the CAP Chaplaincy a “step-up-to-the-plate” to serve our military communities as a Chaplain Corps equal to the task.

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SDWG IG Retires from Active Duty

CAP Lt.Col Jerry Densmore retired from active duty as a US Air Force Chief Master Sergeant on September 9.

"I had the privilege today to attend the retirement ceremony of CHIEF Master Sgt Jerry Densmore," said Col. Mike Beason, S.D. Wing Commander, "and what a privilege it was, steeped in tradition and an element of new!"

Chief Densmore, a Lt Col in Rushmore Composite Squadron, Rapid City, has been on air Force active duty since 1979. Since 1985 he has worked on the B-1, starting in the test squadron at Edwards AFB.

"He is truly one of the most knowledgeable individuals in the Air Force on B-1 maintenance," said Beason.

Densmore recently accepted the position of Inspector General for South Dakota Wing, a position in which his extensive USAF experience will aid him and the wing.

NEWG Guide Named "Best Practice"

An informational sheet developed by Nebraska Wing's LtCol. John Talbott to assist in the preparation of the CAP Form 2a has been listed on the National Headquarters "Administration Best Practices" website. The site lists outstanding processes and practices that improve CAP's performance and efficiency, including those identified during the regular Air Force compliance inspections.

Talbott, the Nebraska Wing chief of staff, developed the document to provide detailed regulatory citations for each item on the 2a.

"[This guide] is provided as a quick way of evaluating the promotion and training requirements for CAP members," said Talbott, "and is not to be treated as an authoritative document, but instead it is provided to assist CAP members in understanding how the two different regulations are inter-related. Since regulations change from time to time, it is recommended that an individual using this document consult the actual regulations when an actual promotion is being evaluated or submitted. Individual section of the pertinent regulations are included, and marked."

Two NCR Wing Have New Wing Cadet Staff

North Dakota and Minnesota Wings have each named newly appointed wing-level Cadet Program staff.

Effective 11 Sep 2006 LtCol. Doug Killian, formerly of Minnesota's Ft. Snelling Squadron, will assume the leadership role of the Minnesota Wing Cadet Program.

Killian replaces Chaplain LtCol. Don Mikitta, who has served in the position since Nov 1998. In this time the wing had nine encampments, developing a Cadet Training Group where the cadets have developed as leaders. Basic cadets went to the next level at Encampment Prep Schools, Non-Commissioned Officers and Basic Cadet Officer's training events. Minnesota cadets participated in four National Cadet Competition's with at least one team, one year providing both Drill Team and Color Guard.

In North Dakota, C/Maj Chris Halvorson has been selected to be the new ND Wing Cadet Assistant Director of Cadet Programs. Cadet Halvorson is the highest ranking cadet in the wing and has shown leadership at activities such as encampment and the Drill Team. He has also been active in Region CAC, including chairing the region CAC. Cadet Halvorson's duties will include assisting with planning and coordinating all cadet related activities at the Wing level. He will be the Cadet Commander for the ND Wing Leadership Academy scheduled in January and assist with the Color Guard Comp and Wing Conference.

St. Charles Composite Squadron Welcomes New Commander

1Lt. Gregory Medsker became the new squadron commander of the St. Charles Composite Squadron during a recent change of command ceremony. Medsker, a private pilot, has been a member of CAP for only a few years but has quickly assumed increasing responsibility within the squadron.

Relinquishing command was 1Lt. Mary Jo Hartman, who served as squadron commander for two years. She and her husband – former Missouri Wing Group II Commander, Maj. Dan Hartman – are relocating to Colorado due to a job change.

Maj. Edward Mueth, Group II Commander, performed the ceremony. Also in attendance was Maj. Roxane Reinhart, US Air Force Reserve, Missouri Wing Reserve Coordinator and Assistant Reserve Forces Director for CAP-USAF North Central Liaison Region, and several members of the Group II Staff, including: Lt. Col. Dan Ranson, Group II Inspector General; Lt. Col. Carolyn Rice, Group II Emergency Services Officer; and Capt. (Dr.) David A. Miller, Group II Vice Commander and Medical Officer.

The Search for Robert Nelson



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Missouri Cadets See Father Receive Bronze Star

Two Missouri Wing cadets attending the annual wing summer encampment at Whiteman Air Force Base received an unusual treat when their father was presented with the Bronze Star during a special ceremony.

Cadets Abrum and Elijah Kennedy beamed with pride as they stood at attention with the rest of the cadet cadre while their father received the award from the vice commander of the 442nd Fighter Wing, Col. Mark Ronco. The ceremony was held to coincide with the encampment.

Senior Master Sgt. Rodney L. Kennedy of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, plans superintendent for the 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 442nd Fighter Wing, was honored for actions in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has been a member of the U.S. Air Force since 1984.

His citation for the award reads that Kennedy "distinguished himself by meritorious achievement ... while engaged in ground operations against the enemy at Tallil Air Base and Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq from 4 April 2003 to 23 November 2003. Sergeant Kennedy's leadership and professional skills were instrumental in the successful establishment of two austere and critical locations to conduct ground maintenance operations to provide combat A-10 aircraft. Sergeant Kennedy's accomplishments were fundamental to the health and safety of maintenance group personnel and were essential to the success of the assigned task."

"It was very rewarding to have my sons witness the event; I wanted them to be as proud of myself as I am of them," Kennedy said.

NCR Encampment Challenges Cadets

CAP members from nine states and three regions gathered at Camp Dodge, Iowa, for the North Central Region Encampment, June 30 through July 7. One hundred twenty five members participated in the event, commanded by LtCol James Peace. LtCol. Regena Aye was the commandant and C/Lt Col Daniel Palmquist the cadet commander.

Highlights of the encampment included tours of the STARC Armory and the National Maintenance Training Center, rappelling sponsored by the Iowa Counter Drug Task Force personnel, a leadership reaction course, and an NRA Rifle Marksmanship Course.

Qualifying as Marksman were: C/2LT Kevin Klein (264), C/Capt. Nathan Scalia (259), C/CMSgt. Aubrey Eaton (247)

Pro Marksman were: C/1LT Elizabeth Spoerl (233), C/Amn Matthew Vandruff (239), C/Sra Christopher Duffel (239), C/MSgt. Kyle Wepler (256), C/SSgt Jacob Stolzer (230), C/SMSgt. Ben Dilley (265), C/A1C Shane Cox (231), C/SSgt Michael Koch (200), C/MSgt Jay Porter (250), C/Sra Alex Sedlacek (278), C/Sra Blaine Wepler (331), S/SSgt Christopher Russel (206), Cadet Stanley (290) NCRCLS

Overall encampment awards included:

- Honor Grad.: C/Amn Whitney Johnson
- Most Improved Staff: C/TSgt. Frederick Montgomery
- Honor Flight: Alpha Flight
- Outstanding Cadet Staff: C/Capt Alicia Englehard
- Outstanding Senior Staff: Major Brandon Butters

See the Encampment Photo Essay on Page 10

MNWG and MOWG Take Top Honors in NCR Golor Guard and Drill Comp.

The Minnesota Wing Color Guard team narrowly surpassed Nebraska Wing to win the region color guard competition, April 29 at Kansas Wing Headquarters in Salina, KS.

Iowa Wing placed third followed in order by North Dakota Wing, South Dakota wing, Kansas Wing, and Missouri Wing.

In the drill team competition, Missouri Wing beat the Minnesota team in Standard Drill. Minnesota Wing had the fleet foot male, Cadet Dunlevy, and female, Cadet Miller, for the drill team competition, and the male, Cadet Haus, for the color guard competition. Missouri Wing had the color guard fleet foot female, Cadet Gillette. Cadet Hargis from Missouri Wing received the highest written test score for Drill Team. Cadet Oglesby from Iowa Wing received the highest test score for color guard.

The outstanding cadet for the color guard was Cadet Haus and Cadet Olsen for the drill team, both from Minnesota Wing.

The Special Team Awards were presented to the Minnesota Wing Drill Team and the Kansas Wing Color Guard Team.

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Former Cadets Marry



Minnesota Wing Spaatz recipient and soon to be USAF 2nd Lt Joshua Gulbranson married the former Erica Hagen on July 29th at a ceremony in Prior Lake, MN.

Erica was a member of the Valley Cadet Squadron and Josh was a member of the Valley, Ft Snelling and Viking Squadrons.

They have one year left at University of North Dakota. Josh is in Air Traffic control, with Air Force commission coming in 2007 to be an Air Battle Manager/ Air Weapons Officer. Erica is majoring in Psychology. After May 2007 Tyndall AFB is their first duty station.

NDWG Ground Teams Score Prompt Find



At the same time North Dakota Wing was embroiled in it's grueling 15 day missing aircraft search (see page 1), ground teams from Lake, Bismarck, and Magic City conducted a successful search. The find was a non-distress ELT in which equipment was damaged but no one was injured. "This really shows how quickly CAP can locate a target if an ELT is on board," days Maj. Erik Ludlow, of North Dakota Wing. "I know this mission has been dwarfed by our [other] current search ,but please realize it was also important and shows the effectiveness of our ground teams."

National Releases "Great Start" Retention Guide

CAP National Commander Gen. Antonio Pineda is encouraging units to make use of materials in the national headquarters website geared to promoting retention.

"The 'Great Start Booklet' is not meant to be used as a recruiting tool," said the commander. "Rather, this book is designed as a retention tool."

Under the Great Start program, new members are assigned a veteran member as a "mentor." The two use the guide both before the new member joins, and as a guide in the first year of membership.

The guide, and related material, can be found at:

National Leadership Academy Planned

CAP National Headquarters is now accepting applications from cadets wishing to attend the 2007 Civic Leadership Academy. The event is an opportunity for cadets to learn about the federal government and explore public service careers in Washington, DC.

Cadets have until 15 October to apply.

For application procedures, please see the attached flier or the CLA homepage:

www.cap.gov/civics

ncr.cap.gov



www.cap.gov/start

Cadets Soar at Minnesota Wing Flight Academy

Editor's Note: This article was written for the St. Cloud, Minnesota media. It nicely tells the story of the recent Minnesota Wing Flight Academy.

Two cadets from St. Cloud's Northstar Cadet Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol took to the friendly skies this summer during the 2006 Minnesota Wing Flight Academy held in Mankato.

Jeff Dvorak of Sauk Rapids and Andrew Schroepfer of Waite Park spent eight days immersed in a military atmosphere, participating in powered aircraft flights, morning physical training, and other aerospace related topics.

Dvorak, 18, and Schroepfer, 17, joined 41 other cadets from across the state to assist and participate in the academy.

Schroepfer, who is attending high school in New Ulm this year, said he developed an interest in flying as a young child.

"My father, uncles and cousins are pilots," Schroepfer said. "It's in my blood."

The academy also included 37 officers who worked as pilot instructors, support staff and adult supervisors to the cadet participants.

The Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 60,000 members nationwide. Volunteers perform 95 percent of inland searches and rescue missions through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center in addition to homeland security,

disaster relief and counter drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies.

For nearly 65 years, members have served a role in aerospace education as mentors to young people. Currently, 25,000 young people participate in the program. The programs provide opportunities to explore futures in the space and aviation industries. Minnesota has 24 Civil Air Patrol squadrons and 1,200 members.

Gustavus Adolphus College in nearby St. Peter provided housing as well as classroom and recreational opportunities for those in attendance.

After each cadet completed classroom instruction, they were given the opportunity to solo in either a powered Cessna 172 aircraft or a Super Blanik L-23 glider from the Mankato Municipal Airport. Thirty cadets participated in the powered program with the remaining 11 piloting the glider.

"The senior members enjoyed being able to let cadets experience their first time flying alone," said Major David Odette, Commander of the Flight Academy. "The most rewarding part for me personally was seeing their faces after they soloed."

Dvorak is the Cadet Commander of the Northstar Cadet Squadron. The Sauk Rapids-Rice High School graduate is a freshman at St. Cloud State University. He said the academy allowed him to fly a plane for the first time. He said his first flight was very memorable.

"I actually rolled the plane while practicing slow flight characteristics; that was incredible," Dvorak said. "Scary as it might seem, I didn't panic. I knew that the experienced flight instructor would take control."

Dvorak, who joined the Civil Air Patrol last year, said his actual solo flight was another highlight during the academy. He now proudly wears his "solo wings" on his uniform.

Most of all, he said he enjoyed the teamwork aspect of the academy and the bird's eye view. "I like flying and the perspective of the earth from above."

Dvorak is working toward his power flight license. He said his ultimate goal is to become an Air Force pilot.

"Civil Air Patrol is helping me to attain these goals, first by teaching me leadership skills, second by giving me a head start in flying that might otherwise be unattainable," Dvorak said.

Schroepfer, who joined CAP last year, is also working toward his power flight license.

"Flying solo for the first time was a thrill," Schroepfer said. "I felt very confident and prepared for my first solo. It was something I had been working on for quite some time."

Captain Pat Cruze, commander of Northstar Cadet Squadron, said the flight academy is a great experience. "Flying and this academy teaches young people self discipline, community involvement, testing, studying, physical fitness, and to take pride in your appearance."

This year's academy closed with comments from Minnesota Wing Commander Colonel Steve Miller. Each cadet was presented with a certificate of completion and congratulated on their hard work and dedication to learning the customs and routines of those serving in the military.

Remember:

- ✓ National Congress on Aviation and Aerospace Education October 19-21, Arlington, Virginia.
- ✓ North Central Region Conference October 27 & 28 in Des Moines.

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2006 NCR Encampment

